

Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently amended) A device having allowance for creeping, comprising:

a base having a mating portion; and

a face located on top of the base, wherein the face is subject to creep, the face comprising a clip, which mates with the mating portion of the base, that is free of force exerted on the face due to creeping deformation;

wherein the clip is ~~not engaged~~ selectively engageable with the mating portion of the base ~~prior to creep deformation.~~

2. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the face is made of plastic.

3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein ~~the device includes a gap between the clip and the mating portion of the base, such that~~ the mating portion is not engaged with the clip prior to deformation of the device due to creep and the clip creeps into engagement with the mating portion.

4. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the base is the base of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.

5. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the face is a face or a shoe of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the base further comprises at least one receiving element and the face further comprises at least one connecting element, wherein the connecting element is received by the receiving element.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the face is made of plastic and a filler material.
10. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the mating portion is located on a first end of the base and the clip is located on an end of the face corresponding to the first end of the base.
11. (Currently amended) A method of reducing stress during assembly of a device comprising a base having a mating portion; and a face located on top of the base, wherein the face is subject to creep, the face comprising a clip-locking mechanism shaped to engage the mating portion of the base, the method comprising the ~~step of~~ steps of:
- a) assembling the face and the base such that the clip-locking mechanism is not engaged with the mating portion and is selectively engageable with the mating portion; and
- b) engaging the clip locking mechanism with the mating portion, when the device is deformed due to creep.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the mating portion is located on a first end of the base and the clip-locking mechanism is located on an end of the face corresponding to the first end of the base.
13. (Currently amended) A device having allowance for creeping, comprising:
- a base having a mating portion located on a first end of the base; and
- a face located on top of the base, wherein the face is subject to creep, the face comprising a clip-locking mechanism extending from a first end of the face corresponding to

the first end of the base and shaped to engage the mating portion of the base that is free of force exerted on the face due to creeping deformation;

such that, in a first position prior to creep, a gap exists between the mating portion of the base and the clip locking mechanism and the mating portion is not engaged with the clip locking mechanism; and

such that, in a second position, the face is deformed relative to the first position due to creep and the clip locking mechanism closes the gap and engages the mating portion of the base.

14. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is made of plastic.
15. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is a face or a shoe of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.
16. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the base is the base of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.
17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the base further comprises at least one receiving element and the face further comprises at least one connecting element, wherein the connecting element is received by the receiving element.
18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is made of plastic and a filler material.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the clip is a dart-type clip.
21. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the clip-locking mechanism is a dart-type clip.
22. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the base is the base of a tensioning arm or a chain guide and the face is a face or a shoe of the tensioning arm or the chain guide.
23. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the clip-locking mechanism is a dart-type clip.